(b) the details and status of projects currently undertaken by this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The terms of reference to the Committee on Rural Infrastructure are:

(i) Initiating policies to ensure time-bound provision of quality infrastructure in rural areas,

(ii) Effecting internal prioritization within major sectors of rural infrastructure for maximizing efficiency and equity considerations,

(iii) Developing innovative financing arrangements for complementing public investment in these areas, and

(iv) Monitoring progress to ensure that targets set are achieved.

(b) The concerned Ministries/Departments have been asked by the Planning Commission to prepare presentations to the Committee covering sector-wise policy initiatives and action plans.

Evaluation of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes

2325. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to enforce compulsory evaluation of all Centrally-sponsored schemes, through external agencies to check against delays in implementation of projects and prevent schemes from being carried over from one five Year Plan to the next; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including guidelines evolved, if any, for hiring consultants and also timeframe fixed for undertaking the evaluation exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.